

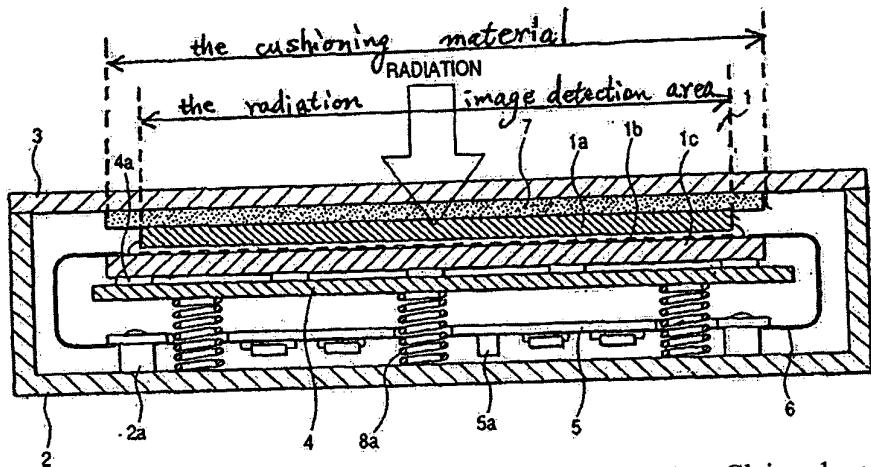
REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 21-23 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1 and 22 are in independent form. Claims 12 and 14-20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claim 1 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 21-23 have been added to assure Applicant a fuller measure of protection of the scope to which he deems himself entitled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,804,832 (Crowell) in view of U.S. Patent 5,869,836 (Linden); and Claim 3 was rejected as being obvious over *Crowell* in view of *Linden* and U.S. Patent 6,211,626 (Lys et al.).

The general background and nature of the invention have been discussed adequately in previous papers, as has the prior art applied against the claims, and it is not believed to be necessary to repeat that discussion.

The aspects of the invention to which the respective independent claims are directed each have the feature that a cushioning material covers a radiation image detection area. A structure illustrating this feature is concisely shown in the following figure (it is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details shown in this figure, or by the details of any embodiment in the present application that may be referred to for purposes of explanation or otherwise):



The aspects of the invention set forth in independent Claims 1 and 22, respectively, are both radiation imaging systems which have achieved an improvement in resistance to deformation under load, resistance to impact, resistance to vibration and the like. In particular, by virtue of the feature just mentioned, that a cushioning material covers the radiation image detection area, a good radiation image can be obtained on the whole surface of the radiation image detection area.

If there is a portion where the cushioning material does not cover the radiation image detection area, there is a difference in radiation amount as between the portion that is covered by the cushioning material and the portion that is not covered. This is because the cushioning material absorbs radiation to some extent, and therefore, the radiation amount at the portion where the cushioning material covers the radiation image detection area is lower than in the portion of the radiation image detection area that is not covered by the cushioning material.

Applicant strongly urges that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in either *Crowell* or *Linden* that would teach or even hint at this feature. That no such cushion arrangement is taught by *crowell* is believed to be conceded by the Office Action.

In the Linden arrangement, the crystal 14 receives radiation through a window 26 (col. 5, lines 1-6). Near the opposite end of the crystal is a cushioning including a layer 44 of a cushion material, backed up by springs 40 (col. 5, line 21, through col. 6, line 6). Thus, it is believed to be clear that nothing in either of these patents, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination (if any exists), would teach or suggest the recited structure, in which "the cushioning material covers the radiation image detection area". For at least that reason, Claims 1 and 22 are both believed to be clearly allowable over these two patents.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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